



# West Lake Update

January 16, 2015

## A Year in **REVIEW**

The year 2014 for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site was an active time for work, both on and off the site. EPA cooperated with partner agencies and local stakeholders throughout the year to continue protecting human health and the environment. Here's a look back at some key landmarks:

### EPA Analysis of PRPs' SSE Report

EPA's top researchers in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) completed a critical assessment of the Potentially Responsible Parties' (PRPs) report on what could happen if the subsurface smoldering event (SSE) in the Bridgeton Landfill were to contact the radiologically-impacted material (RIM) at the West Lake site. EPA's experts agree the RIM is not expected to be more or less radioactive in the presence of heat, and there's no evidence that RIM will become explosive in the presence of heat. EPA does expect there to be increased releases of radon if the SSE were to contact the RIM. The ORD review is available online: [www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/)

### EPA Partnership with USGS

In Spring 2014, EPA Region 7 requested that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) review 2012-2014 groundwater monitoring data for the West Lake Landfill Site. USGS is a governmental science organization that provides impartial information on the health of our ecosystems and environment. As the federal government's experts on groundwater, geology and hydrogeology, USGS's partnership with EPA brings some of the world's best and brightest groundwater scientists to the West Lake team. The USGS groundwater report to EPA was delivered on December 17 and is available online: [www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/pdf/west-lake-usgs-gw-rpt-12-17-14.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-usgs-gw-rpt-12-17-14.pdf)



### EPA Establishes Off-Site Air Monitoring Network

EPA established an off-site air monitoring network consisting of five locations in areas surrounding the West Lake Landfill in early Summer 2014. The purpose of the system is to document ambient air conditions off the site, establish a baseline prior to construction activities, and monitor ambient air condi-



tions during construction activities to determine if any releases occur above any established health-based benchmarks. The system currently conducts sampling for typical solid waste landfill gases such as sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds. Radiation monitoring for radon, alpha, beta and gamma emissions is also underway. EPA's summary of the data collected by the monitoring system will be posted online in January 2015.

### EPA Partnership with USACE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) entered into two Interagency Agreements with EPA Region 7 in 2014. The first agreement enables USACE to provide construction management support for the design and construction of the proposed isolation barrier. The second agreement allows USACE to perform an Independent Technical Review of reports prepared by the PRPs in response to the December 2011 National Remedy Review Board consultation, and provide community relations support. Under the first agreement, USACE is reviewing and commenting on the draft design of the proposed isolation barrier. The Corps' input regarding potentially applicable technologies for and challenges to constructing the barrier will soon be delivered to Region 7. USACE would also review work plans provided by the PRPs associated with construction of the barrier.



### EPA Supports Local Emergency Planning Efforts

EPA Region 7 supported St. Louis County Emergency Management in its contingency planning efforts. St. Louis County has developed an Incident Action Plan for potential emergency situations that could arise at or near the West Lake Landfill Site. EPA has supported this planning effort since March 2014 by participating in planning calls, reviewing and commenting on the draft plan, and providing a fact sheet to the county on EPA's response assets as well as assets EPA can access from other federal agencies and special teams through the National Response System.

### EPA Completes BMAC Radiation Screening

Radiation experts from EPA Region 7 and Region 5 worked from morning to night the week of May 19 to complete a comprehensive radiation screening of the 70-acre Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC). Combining a Global Positioning System (GPS)-linked radiation



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